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Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
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DRAFTED BY OES:TSELLIN:HHB
APPROVED BY OES - R.C. BREWSTER
NSF/DPP - MR. FOWLER
EA/ANP - MR. WAJDA
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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
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TAGS: XV, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: ANTARCTICA: GAO PROPOSED PLANS FOR AIR TRANSPORT
COOPERATION WITH NZ AND US

REFERENCE: CANBERRA 5580

1. IT APPEARS TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE WEBSTER/KILLEN
PRESS RELEASE CITED IN REFTEL IS A USEFUL STATEMENT
DESIGNED TO ENLIST GREATER R.A.A.F. INVOLVEMENT IN THE
AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC PROGRAM AND THUS TO INCREASE COOPERA-
TIVE LOGISTICS OPERATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S., AUSTRALIA AND
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NEW ZEALAND TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL. THE NATIONAL SCIENCE
FOUNDATION (NSF), WHICH MANAGES THE U.S. ANTARCTIC PROGRAM,
IS OF THE SAME VIEW, AND INFORMS US THAT THE SUGGESTED EX-
CHANGES OF INTERCONTINENTAL FLIGHTS BY R.A.A.F. WHEELED
AIRCRAFT FOR INTRACONTINENTAL FLIGHTS IN ANTARCTICA BY U.S.
SKI-EQUIPPED C-130S ARE WELL WITHIN THE RANGE OF
POSSIBILITY IN THE 1978-79 SEASON.

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2. THE SUBJECT OF COOPERATION IN AIR TRANSPORT IN ANTARCTICA (CATSA) HAS BEEN ON THE AGENDA OF CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY PARTIES FOR SEVERAL YEARS. IN 1975 THE WORKING GROUP ON LOGISTICS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH (SCAR) WAS ASKED TO STUDY THIS ISSUE. A SCAR REPORT ON THE SUBJECT HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO THE TREATY PARTIES AND IS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING IN LONDON IN SEPTEMBER, 1977. IT OUTLINES A THEORETICAL STAGE ONE OF CATSA, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VARIOUS BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR OPERATION OF AIRCRAFT AND USE OF FACILITIES. (SOME SUCH ARRANGEMENTS HAVE ALREADY OCCURRED, PRINCIPALLY INVOLVING THE AIRCRAFT AND/OR FACILITIES OF ARGENTINA, NEW ZEALAND, UNITED KINGDOM, USSR, AND USA.) IT IS PROPOSED THAT SCAR DEVELOP COMMON CRITERIA OR DOCTRINES FOR USE BY ALL PARTIES WITH REGARD TO SKIWAY AND FUELING FACILITIES AND RELATED AIR OPERATING PROCEDURES.

3. THE CURRENT PROPOSAL BY AUSTRALIA IS IN THIS CONTEXT OF COOPERATION UNDER THE ANTARCTIC TREATY. THE CHANNEL FOR DEVELOPING THE ARRANGEMENTS IS BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONAL ANTARCTIC PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICES: IN AUSTRALIA DR. RAY GARROD, DIRECTOR, ANTARCTIC DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE; AND IN THE USA, DR. EDWARD P. TODD, DIVISION OF POLAR PROGRAMS, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROPOSAL AS DESCRIBED IN SENATOR WEBSTER'S NEWS RELEASE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY NSF WITH DR. GARROD THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE IN MAY AND JUNE, 1977. MR. JIM WHITTEM, THE SCIENCE COUNSELLOR AND WING COMMANDER CHRIS ROBB FROM THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON VISITED NSF SUBSEQUENTLY AND THE ARRANGEMENTS WERE DISCUSSED. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT ANY ARRANGEMENT RELATED TO CATSA SHOULD REMAIN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATION UNDER THE ANTARCTIC TREATY BETWEEN THE NATIONAL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICES (NSF IN THE U.S.) AND THAT ANY NECESSARY LIAISON IN THE U.S. WITH USN AND USAF WILL BE HANDLED BY NSF.

4. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, WE FEEL THE COOPERATIVE ARRANGE-MENTS PROPOSED BY THE AUSTRALIANS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE DEVELOPED IN THE EXISTING ANTARCTIC PROGRAM CHANNELS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY. A SPECIAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT IS NOT NECESSARY. SIMILARLY, A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING UNDER THE US-AUSTRALIA SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT IS UNNECESSARY.

VANCE

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